

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. These remarks will track the order of the paragraphs of the Office Action.

1-3. Election/Restriction

Applicants confirm the election noted in paragraph 1. The nonelected claims (15-17) are being cancelled at this time to permit this application to move directly to allowance. This cancellation of claims 15-17 is being done subject to applicants' express reservation of the right to file a suitable divisional application embodying them

4. Priority

Thank you for acknowledging the 35 U.S.C. §119 papers.

Specification

Thank you for supplying the application guidelines. It is respectfully submitted that applicants' preliminary amendment provided section captions complying with these guidelines. If the Examiner would like any captions reworded, please telephone the undersigned.

5. Title

The new title suggested by the Examiner has been adopted with one change. The term "VIDEO SIGNAL" is used rather than "VIDEO DATA". It should be noted, however, that this amendment of the title to conform to the Examiner's suggestion is not to be construed as a limitation to the claims of this application.

6-12. Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §112

Thank you for noting the several antecedent basis insufficiencies in the claims. These have all been corrected by amendment. Several other possible antecedent basis issues have been identified and corrected by this amendment, as well.

13-14. Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Lemelson et al. This rejection as it might be sought to be made against the amended claims now presented is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, it is important to review the invention as claimed in claims 1 and 12 (the two independent claims now under examination) and to compare this invention with the overall disclosure of Lemelson et al.

Claims 1 and 12 relate to a system for transmitting a television video signal from a moving object to a plurality of receivers and to the use of a separate “moving object position signal” to optimize the selection of the signal from the “best” receiver based on the position of the moving object relative to the several receivers. As the new title suggested by the Examiner and the identity of the assignee of this application make clear – a prime application of this invention is to provide an improved in-car television camera signal in auto racing settings.

In contrast, Lemelson et al does not involve the transmission of video signals from a moving object. Rather it provides a moving object, which by virtue of being equipped with GPS equipment and other detectors, knows where it is located and transmits this information about its location to a stationary receiver and/or to other vehicles

Thus, when Lemelson et al describes transmitting signals from vehicles, these signals are not television video signals, and the signals are transmitted in the context of “... an integrated GPS/DGPS/LPS automobile-on-the-highway, fuzzy logic implemented, anti-collision system

which transmits intervehicle and to central control a comprehensive set of such GPS based position and related vehicular data.”(Lemelson et al at 0020).

The Office Action states that “Lemelson et al, in Figures 1-5 and 19, discloses a GPS vehicle control system and method that is the same communication method and system as specified in claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8-12....” and then attempts to equate elements of the claims with disclosure in Lemelson et al.

The Examiner is correct when he notes that both Lemelson et al and the present invention include a “video signal source” (i.e. a video camera) and that both show a “transmitter provided on a mobile object”. However, here is where the Lemelson et al disclosure and the present invention diverge.

The present claims call for transmitting video signals from the moving object to multiple receivers separate from the moving object.

In contrast, Lemelson et al does not transmit video signals from a moving object. Lemelson et al uses its video cameras to detect objects. (see 0058) This detection information is used to “analyze all objects.” (see 0057) This analyzing includes “...processing and analyzing digital signals indicative of video images detected by the one or more television cameras.” (see 0059) Lemelson et al describes carrying out this analyzing of these digital signals using neural networks (see 0070) fuzzy logic associative memory(see 0074) and expert system fuzzy logic inference rules to provide additional information (beyond the GPS/DGPS/LPS data which it also employs) to avoid or minimize collisions. (see 0110)

In Lemelson et al, all of this analyzing of the video signal and generation of location information takes place on the vehicle for which collisions are being avoided. This can be seen on Fig. 3 where the microprocessor on board the vehicle is described. Fig. 3 shows that this microprocessor receives the GPS/GPS/LPS information as well as the video camera signal, radar-lidar signals and the like and uses the video signals in an image analysis computer to generate better or more detailed information about the location and velocity of the vehicle upon which the

camera and the microprocessor are mounted and the locations of other vehicles and other objects relative to that same vehicle.

The abstract in Lemelson et al, specifically notes that this computer processing and analysis and location information generation are taking place “...in the one vehicle...” (that is the vehicle with the camera or cameras.) It is this information about location, etc produced in the computer analysis that is transmitted, not the video signal which is only used in the vehicle where it was generated to determine position. Lemelson et al further emphasizes this when it states “Each of the individual vehicles 2 computes its own precise location, velocity and X-Y-Z acceleration vectors, which are then transmitted via radio control signal 8 to control center 12...” (see 0102) Fig 5 in Lemelson et al is consistent with this when it shows camera 54 and display 110 are on the same vehicle and that they are connected to the computer “bus 112”. Additional disclosure in Lemelson et al consistent with this interpretation can be found in paragraphs 88, 99, 102, 103, 115 and 119 and following.

Applicants’ attorney can find no disclosure in Lemelson et al, and particularly in Lemelson et al’s Figs 1-5 and 19 which suggests or teaches that the video signals produced by its cameras 54 on the vehicle 2 are ever transmitted as video signals from the vehicle as is required in the present claims. Instead, Lemelson et al discloses processing the video signals from camera 54 on vehicle 2, using a processor located in the vehicle 2 into vehicle position information. It is this vehicle position identification information that Lemelson et al discloses can be transmitted from the vehicle 2 by radio communication.

The Office Action continues to repeat this misinterpretation of the Lemelson et al teachings when it recites that Lemelson et al teaches “...first and second receivers 10 for receiving the transmitted video signal”, that Lemelson et al teaches “...using parameters of the received video signal ...” and using “...a position signal for selecting one of the video signals received by the first and second receivers...” In every case, to the extent that Lemelson describes transmitting something from a vehicle it is location information and the like, never a video signal.

In addition, although Lemelson et al does show multiple receiver towers in its Fig. 1, it does not describe how to select between the same video signal received at different receivers, as is set forth in the present claims.

Accordingly, Lemelson et al can not anticipate claims 1 or 12. In addition, since these independent claims are novel, claims 2, 5, 6 and 9-11 which depend from them must be novel as well. Thus all of these anticipation rejections need to be reconsidered and withdrawn.

15-18 Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner is correct in presuming that the subject matter of the various claims in this application was commonly owned at the time their inventions were made.

The rejection of claims 3 and 4 as obvious in view of Lemelson et al in view of the Examiner's "Official Notice" is respectfully traversed. Claims 3 and 4 recite a preferred geometry for the antenna employed in the several receivers which receive the transmitted video signals from the moving object. These claims both depend from and delimit claim 1 which has been shown to be patentable over Lemelson et al. The Examiner's Official Notice does not go to correct the deficiencies of Lemelson et al noted above but rather appears to be limited to his beliefs concerning antenna geometry and placement. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In the unlikely event that this rejection is continued and continues to be based upon the combination of Lemelson et al plus Examiner's personal knowledge, applicants' attorney requests that an appropriate record be created for purposes of appeal. That is, the Examiner is specifically requested to file a suitable affidavit or declaration setting forth the basis for his personal knowledge so that on appeal the reviewing authorities will have an adequate basis to weigh these Examiner-provided facts and assess the correctness of this rejection based upon them.

The rejection of claim 7 as obvious over Lemelson et al in view of Jones et al is also respectfully traversed. Claim 7 calls for the position detector to use information derived from the

timing system at a race track. Applicants' attorney agrees with the Examiner that Jones et al which appears to disclose a classic "transponder" system for determining the presence of a race car at one or more locations around a race track, would be capable of generating position information useful in the system of claim 7. More importantly again, however, claim 7 depends from claim 1 which has been shown to be patentable. Jones et al does not address the failings of Lemelson et al to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 1 and thus, together with Lemelson et al can not render obvious claim 7.

Please reconsider this rejection and withdraw it.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

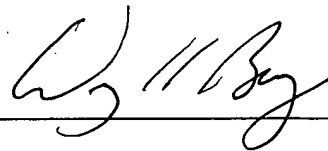
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

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